



Last Updated: 03/09/2022

Rate Increase for Obstetrical and Gynecological Services

The purpose of this memo is to inform you of a change in the payment rates for Medicaid and FAMIS covered obstetrical and gynecological services effective September 1, 2004. Medicaid rates have not been increased for these services in over a decade. Medicaid pays for a significant number of the babies delivered in Virginia. In the past year, many obstetrical providers across the state have discussed discontinuing or curtailing their practices as they confront rising malpractice insurance rates and stagnant reimbursement rates under both Medicaid and private insurance groups.

On August 12, 2004, Governor Mark R. Warner announced an increase in Medicaid payments for Medicaid-covered obstetrical services by 34 percent. This increase will raise Medicaid payments to approximately 80% of the average commercial rates paid for these services. This increase will be effective for those services performed on or after September 1, 2004. Governor Warner is implementing the rate increase as a result of interim recommendations from the administration's Executive Directive 2 Working Group on Rural Obstetrical Care (Working Group), created by the Governor in March 2004 and consists of legislators, health care leaders, and patient advocates from across the state. If you would like more information regarding the Working Group, please view the DMAS website. Questions can be sent to ExecDirective2@dmas.virginia.gov.

FEE-FOR-SERVICE PROVIDERS

Providers that perform these medically necessary obstetrical and gynecological services will not need to do anything different to receive the increased Medicaid rates. The new rates will automatically be paid based on services performed on or after the September 1, 2004.



MEDICAID MEMO

At the end of this memo are CPT codes affected by the new reimbursement increases. It is important to understand, however, that the emergency increases will affect only those medically necessary Medicaid covered services. Coverage criteria and specialty forms required for some of these services are outlined in the Medicaid provider manuals. The manuals can be found on the Department's website at www.dmas.virginia.gov.

MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDERS

The Department contracts with several managed care organizations (MCO) to provide health coverage to the majority of Medicaid individuals. Those health plans are: Anthem HealthKeepers Plus (offered by HealthKeepers, Inc., Peninsula Health Care, and Priority Health Care), Sentara Family Care, Southern Health-CareNet, UniCare Health Plan, and Virginia Premier Health Plan. Effective for services performed on or after September 1, 2004, the health plans will reimburse their providers at least the rate reimbursed by Medicaid fee-for-service. Each health plan will be contacting their providers to advise of their MCO-specific reimbursement. Before September 1, 2004, please direct MCO reimbursement questions to the appropriate plan's provider relations call center.

Anthem HealthKeepers Plus: 804-354-2334 - Central Virginia

757-326-5152 - Tidewater/Peninsula

Sentara Family Care: 800-229-8822

Southern Health-CareNet: 800-279-1878

UniCare Health Plan: 888-229-3872

Virginia Premier: 800 727-7536 X5204

EXECUTIVE DIRECTIVE 2 WORKING GROUP ON RURAL



MEDICAID MEMO

OBSTETRICAL CARE INFORMATION

E-mail: ExecDirective2@dmas.virginia.gov

Website: www.dmas.virginia.gov

ELIGIBILITY AND CLAIMS STATUS INFORMATION

DMAS offers a web-based Internet option to access information regarding Medicaid eligibility, claims status, check status, service limits, prior authorization, and pharmacy prescriber identification information. The website address to use to enroll for access to this system is <http://virginia.fhsc.com>. The MediCall voice response system will provide the same information and can be accessed by calling 800-884-9730 or 800-772-9996. Both options are available at no cost to the provider.

COPIES OF MANUALS

DMAS publishes electronic and printable copies of its provider manuals and Medicaid Memoranda on the DMAS website at www.dmas.virginia.gov (***please note the new website address***). Refer to the Provider Column to find Medicaid and SLH provider manuals or click on "Medicaid Memos to Providers" to view Medicaid Memoranda. The Internet is the most efficient means to receive and review current provider information. If you do not have access to the Internet, or would like a paper copy of a manual, you can order these by contacting Commonwealth-Martin at 804-780-0076. A fee will be charged for the printing and mailing of the manuals and manual updates requested.

"HELPLINE"

The "HELPLINE" is available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except State holidays, to answer questions. The "HELPLINE" numbers are:



Department of Medical Assistance Services
600 East Broad Street
Suite 1300
Richmond, VA 23219

<https://dmas.virginia.gov>

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Richmond area
1-800-552-8627
All other areas

Please remember that the "HELPLINE" is for provider use only.